**A BASIC guide to the tenses...**

Unless stated otherwise, this guide is for how to form the “I” part of the verb

**Pluperfect**

Meaning: I had played

When? A fairly long time ago

Usually used with “cuando” (when)- I had finished when Neil arrived

How to form - ar verbs

1. Había
2. Remove –ar from infinitive eg habl

Add –ado = hablado

= había hablado

How to form - er / ir verbs

1. Había
2. Remove –er / -ir from infinitive eg viv

Add –ido = vivido

= había vivido

**Preterite**

Key irregulars

fui – I went dije – I said

fue – It was pude - I was able to

Meaning: -ed

When? A past action which has definitely finished

How to form - ar verbs

1. Remove –ar from infinitive e.g. habl
2. Add é = hablé NOTE- THE ACCENT IS CRUCIAL TO GET IT RIGHT

How to form - er / ir verbs

1. Remove –er / -ir from infinitive e.g. viv
2. Add í = viví NOTE- THE ACCENT IS CRUCIAL TO GET IT RIGHT

**Imperfect**

Meaning: I was ...ing / I used to...

When? For an ongoing event- which you might not be CERTAIN has finished

How to form - ar verbs

1. Remove –ar from infinitive e.g. habl
2. Add aba = hablaba

How to form - er / ir verbs

1. Remove –er / ir from infinitive e.g. viv
2. Add ía = vivía NOTE- THE ACCENT IS CRUCIAL TO GET IT RIGHT

**Perfect**

Key irregulars

visto – seen hecho - done

dicho - said

Meaning: I have...-ed

When? Implication that it’s a fairly recent event

How to form - ar verbs / er verbs / ir verbs

Same as Pluperfect tense

EXCEPT **he** vivido, **he** hablado etc – not **había**

**Present**

Meaning: I play / talk / go

When? To talk about something that is happening now, or which started in the past and is **ONGOING**

Key irregulars

Voy – I am going Puedo – I can

Quiero – I want Tengo – I have

How to form - ar verbs / er verbs / ir verbs

1. Remove –ar / -er / -ir from infinitive
2. Add “o” e.g. hablo / vivo

**Simple future**

Meaning: I am going to...

When? In the near future- probably within the next week

How to form - ar verbs / er verbs / ir verbs

Voy a + infinitive e.g. voy a hablar / voy a vivir

**Future**

Meaning: I will...

When? In the future, but not necessarily straight away

How to form - ar verbs / er verbs / ir verbs

Add é onto infinitive e.g. hablaré / viviré NOTE THE ACCENT

**Conditional**

Meaning: I would...

When? Uncertain- will only happen in the future **IF** something else happens first

How to form - ar verbs / er verbs / ir verbs

Key irregulars- FUTURE AND CONDITIONAL

Habrá – there will be

Tendré / tendría – I will / would have

Saldré / saldría – I will / would go out

Add ía onto infinitive NOTE THE ACCENT

USE WITH

Si pudiera = If I were able to

Si tuviera el dinero = I if I had the money

Si fuera posible = If it were possible